THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Shri Maheshwar Singh, Hon'ble Member of Parliament had written to the Ministry on this subject. The Ministry has been taking necessary action, as per prescribed procedure of the Government of India. In this connection, a Committee of Officers constituted by the Ministry visited the site of Geothermal Power Plants at Manikaran on 10.11.2001. The Report of this Committee has been submitted to the Ministry and further necessary action in this regard is being taken.

Solar Energy Project in Ladakh

381. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Solar Energy Project is proposed to be utilized for providing electricity to Ladakh;

(b) if so, the details of investments to be made; and

(c) by when the projects will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources has sanctioned a project in September, 2001 to the Ladakh Affairs Department of Jammu and Kashmir Government for the electrification of 39 villages in Leh District and 18 villages and 27 hamlets in Kargil district through installation of 10,000 solar home lighting systems and distribution of 6,000 solar lanterns. The project is to be implemented through the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh in Leh District and the District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kargil in Kargil District. The project also envisages involvement of local non-governmental organizations in implementation. The estimated cost of this village electrification project is Rs. 20 crores, out of which the share of this Ministry is Rs. 18 crores. The Ministry has already released Rs. 4.35 crores to the programme implementing agencies as advance grant. The

balance Rs. 2 crores is to be met by the State Government. The project is to be completed by 31st March, 2003.

In addition, the Ministry has allocated 500 solar lanterns and 250 solar home lighting systems to LAHDC, and 250 solar lanterns and 250 solar home lighting systems to the Ladakh Ecological Development Group (LEDEG), Leh, a local non-governmental organization, under the solar photovoltaic programme for 2001-02. The estimated Central financial assistance for these systems is Rs. 39 lakhs. These systems are to be installed/distributed by 31st March, 2002.

Development of a Solar Passenger Car

382. PROF. A. LAKSHMISAGAR: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that recently four Bangalore Engineering students have developed a solar passenger car;

(b) if so, whether they have approached the Ministry for large-scale production; and

(c) the list of such inventions pending Ministry's approval since the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI M. KANNAPPAN): (a) Yes Sir. Four students of R.V. College of Engineering, Bangalore are reported to have developed a hybrid solar electric car. A prototype model was displayed at a car and bike show held in Bangalore recently. It is reported that an old car has been modified to run a DC motor using electricity from batteries and solar modules. Five solar modules are fitted on the bonnet and back of the car.

(b) No proposal to support large-scale production of such a hybrid car has been received by the Ministry either from the Engineering College or the students.

(c) There is no system or requirement of approval by the Ministry of such inventions. An inventor can file an application with the